

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 /105 W

----- 023306

R 221650Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8497

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4802

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BE CG

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO ZAIRE

REF: KINSHASA 6872

1. ACCORDING TO FONOFF SOURCE, DATES FOR PRIME MINISTER LEBURTON'S VISIT TO ZAIRE WILL BE AUGUST 26-30. VISIT IS PRIVATE BUT SOURCE EXPECTS GOZ WILL TURN IT INTO AFFAIR OF STATE. FONOFF HAD LITTLE INVOLVEMENT IN PREPARATIONS AND NOT YET INFORMED OF VISIT SCHEDULE. HERMAN NOPEN, LEBURTON'S CABINET CHIEF FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, VISITED KINSHASA LAST WEEK TO PREPARE WAY FOR VISIT AND PRESUMABLY WILL ACCOMPANY LEBURTON. ACCORDING TO PRESS, LEBURTON'S CABINET CHIEF FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, GUY SPITAEELS, ALSO WILL ACCOMPANY.

2. COMMENT: BELGIAN SOCIALISTS TRADITIONALLY HAVE MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT MOBUTU. AS CO-PRESIDENT OF SOCIALIST PARTY LAST YEAR, LEBURTON WAS CITED IN PRESS FOR PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLE BEHIND SCENES TO ARRANGE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE IN WHICH GOZ HAD IMPOSED ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON BELGIUM.CROWLEY

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